**Immigration check clearance**

2561. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Passport holders are still requiring Immigration Check Clearance from Proctor of Emigration (PoE) for some countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reason for taking the clearance from the PoE;

(d) whether Government are considering to completely abolish the clearance in near future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Only persons with ECR (Emigration Clearance Required) endorsed passports are required to obtain emigration clearance from the Protectors of Emigrants before going abroad for employment. However, persons going to any of the 54 countries (list is enclosed as statement) (*See* below) are exempted from obtaining emigration clearance as these countries have adequate immigration controls and provide access to grievance redressal fora to foreign migrant workers.

(c) to (e) The objecive of obtaining emigration clearance is to ensure that vulnerable categories of unskilled/semi-skilled workers and women seeking employment as housemaids and domestic workers have proper employment documents and do not face difficulties on arrival in the foreign countries. Progressively, emigration clearance has been dispensed with for 14 categories of persons. There is no proposal to abolish the same.

***Statement***

*List of Countries for which emigration ckeck is not required*

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| 1. Albania | 28. Lithuania |
| 2. Australia | 29. Luxemburg |
| 3. Austria | 30. Malta |
| 4. Bahamas | 31. Mexico |
| 5. Bangladesh | 32. Monaco |
| 6. Bhutan | 33. Nepal |
| 7. Bulgaria | 34. Netherlands |
| 8. Canada | 35. New Zealand |
| 9. Cyprus | 36. Norway |
| 10. Czech Republic | 37. Pakistan |
| 11. Denmark | 38. Poland |
| 12. Estonia | 39. Portugal |
| 13. Finland | 40. Romania |
| 14. France | 41. San Marino |
| 15. Germany | 42. Slovak Republic |
| 16. Gibraltar | 43. Spain |
| 17. Greece | 44. Sweden |
| 18. Greenland | 45. Switzerland |
| 19. Hungary | 46. The Holy See |
| 20. Ireland | 47. Turkey |
| 21. Iceland | 48. United States of America |
| 22. Italy | 49. Yugoslavia |
| 23. Japan | 50. Belgium |
| 24. Latvia | 51. South Korea |
| 25. Liechtenstein | 52. South Africa |
| 26. Vatican City | 53. Singapore |
| 27. United Kingdom | 54. Thailand |